

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page ⁵~~6~~, line ³⁰~~9~~, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Chw
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In the laser device shown in Fig. 8, the ridge portions 3 and 28 are shaped so that width of the upper edge of each is no more than 50% of the width of the lower edge thereof. The injection of currents into the active layers 3 and 24 is constrained by the narrowing of the width of the upper edge, the light-generating regions of the active layers 3 and 24 is limited to the central portions under the ridge portions 5 and 28, and the surface area of the portions of the active layers 3 and 24 that produce the high gain is reduced. This is because it is considered in the prior art that absorption by the active layers 3 and 24 can be made more likely to occur and self-sustained pulsation can be made more likely to occur by reducing the surface area of the portions in which gain is high and increasing the surface area of portions in which ~~adsorption~~ absorption occurs. And this is because it is easy to form the ridge portions 5 and 28 so that the width of the upper edges thereof are narrow by using wet etching.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 20, line 20, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In the above-described laser device of Fig. 1, the cross-sectional surface of each of the ridge portions 28C and 28D is described as having a shape such that the